

Andrews University

Digital Commons @ Andrews University

Faculty Publications

5-1-1972

Questions Youth Are Asking Today

C. Mervyn Maxwell
Andrews University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/pubs>

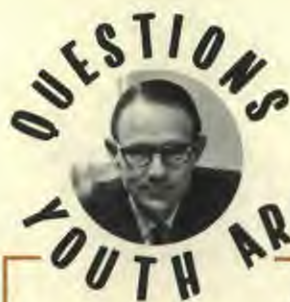


Part of the [Biblical Studies Commons](#), and the [Practical Theology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Maxwell, C. Mervyn, "Questions Youth Are Asking Today" (1972). *Faculty Publications*. 3908.
<https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/pubs/3908>

This Popular Press is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ Andrews University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Andrews University. For more information, please contact repository@andrews.edu.



Answered by Mervyn Maxwell

I WANT TO HAVE A FLING

I come from a good Christian family, I go to church every week. I participate in church activities. I want to go to heaven. But I also want to go out into the world and have a fling. It's real hell serving two masters, but I can't seem to let either one go. How do you get rid of evil desires when you live in the middle of a sinful world? Help me!

1. Think about your words, "fling" and "hell." To fling means to throw, to throw away. Why do you want to throw away your relative peace of mind in exchange for lifelong regrets? Your health, for drug addiction and syphilis? Your hopes for a happy Christian family of your own, for a forced marriage with a flash in the pan? If you think it's "hell" to want to be bad when you're good, think what a hell it is to be chained to drug and sex habits and to realize it's all your own fault.

2. "Overcome evil with good," Romans 12:21. If you had two pet cats and you fed one of them once a week and the other one every day, which would grow stronger? If you feed your "carnal nature" with racy stories and sexy TV shows, it will grow fierce as a tiger and tear you to pieces someday. But if you starve your carnal nature and feed your "spiritual nature" with kindly deeds, earnest prayers, daily Bible reading, and plenty of witnessing, then your impulses to do good will grow and grow until you won't even want to have a fling anymore.

This is for real.

RATTLESNAKES AT THE MARRIAGE ALTAR

My mother got married when she was fifteen. She and Daddy have lived together happily. I'll be sixteen by this summer, and I want to

get married then. Jack and I really love each other. He's real groovy. But Mother says I have to wait at least two more years. Can't you convince her that what worked for her will work for me too?

I have a friend who got bitten by a rattlesnake, swelled up and turned blue, yet lived.

There are exceptions to every rule. The rule here is that most teenage marriages don't last five years, and the younger the teen-agers the fewer the years. Your mother was an exception.

It takes two to make a lasting marriage. Your mother married a good partner. Are you quite, quite certain that your boyfriend is as good a man as your father?

Have you searched carefully enough for rattlesnakes around the altar? The person you can save from being bitten is yourself.

NEW WORLD TRANSLATION

What religious group prints the "New World Translation" of the Bible? Can you give me an example of any deviations in it from the King James Version? How come there are so many Bibles? Each religious group seems to have its own.

I'll begin at the end. Catholics, Jews, and Jehovah's Witnesses have their own translations of the Bible. Most of the versions available today have been produced, so far as I can tell, by individuals or groups who have hoped to make God's Word more readily available to all.

Every translation is influenced more or less by the presuppositions of the translators. The *New World Translation*, which is published by Jehovah's Witnesses and for the most part is a valid piece of work, is rather more influenced in this way than most others.

One of its more mysterious fea-

tures is its insistence that Jesus was "impaled" on a simple pole or "torture stake" with His hands above His head, a translation that is supported in the appendix with the assertions that (a) simple pole-shaped crosses were the only ones used in Palestine at the time Jesus died, (b) the idea that Jesus died on a T- or + -shaped cross was invented by paganized Christians who worshipped the T- or + -shaped Roman military banners, and (c) no early Christian writer or artist attests the common form of the cross until the church had gone pagan in the fourth century.

Truth is that early Christian artists do not picture *any* form of the cross, pole-shaped, T-, or + -shaped, so their witness proves nothing; and on the other hand, several of the very earliest Christian writers—Barnabas, Justin, Clement, Irenaeus, Tertullian, and Origen—men who hated all forms of pagan worship—knew only the T- or + -shaped cross, believed Jesus died on such a cross, and drew lessons from the fact.

CHRISTIAN PASSOVER?

Why don't Christians keep Passover? It seems to me that the Bible requires observance of the Passover just as strongly as it does the Sabbath. I'm a convert from Judaism, and I miss this beautiful celebration. Since my childhood the Seder suppers have been filled with symbolism that I don't find contrary to the spirit of Christianity.

Christians do observe Passover—in a modified sense. The Lord's Supper was instituted by Jesus as He took the bread and wine of the Seder supper and gave them new meaning, then asked His followers to eat and drink them in memory of Him. Every Lord's Supper is the Christian's continuation of the Passover.

According to the Bible, Jews must celebrate Passover by eating a lamb slain at the temple. Since this is no longer possible, Jews themselves do not today keep the Old Testament Passover. But for Christians Jesus is the Lamb of God (John 1:29). He is "our Passover," "crucified for us." 1 Corinthians 5:7.

WHAT'S "LAUD"?

The hymnals at our church have a hymn that starts, "All glory, laud, and honor." Our pastor chooses it often. Can you tell me what "laud" means?

It's an old-fashioned word meaning "praise." It comes from a Latin word which shows up in "laudable" (praiseworthy) and in "summa cum laude" (with highest praise).

Some hymnals print the phrase you refer to as "All glory, praise, and honor."

Since many people sing this hymn without the slightest idea of what the word means, it is laudable of you to ask!

GOD AND/OR THINGS?

Why do church people talk so much about the material benefits of heaven? Golden streets, pearly gates, huge mansions, tame lions for the kiddies—it's so thing-centered. There is only one suitable motivation for going to heaven, and that is to be with God. St. Augustine was right when he said that heaven is the contemplation of God in His love and glory.

If you mean that we shouldn't think *only* of heaven's material benefits and that we should give *prior emphasis* to fellowship with God, then you are surely right. But do you mind if I make a case for the things of heaven as well as heaven's worship possibilities?

Isn't God—in the best sense of the word—the ultimate materialist? By definition He is the Creator who made everything that is. It is He who made the stars and our own "wet planet," and we know He wants us to enjoy the things He has made, for when He formed sunsets, lakes, and pretty faces, He gave us eyes to see them with. When He made apples, He gave us tongues to taste them with. He gave us teeth to munch His cucumbers with, noses to smell His roses with, and hands to clasp in love another person's hands, which He also made! God revels in things. When making us in His image, He gave us a delight in things, and, so that we would never forget our dependence

on Him as the ultimate Source of things, He made us dependent on His things. Our very existence depends at the least on food, clothes, air, and water; and Jesus promised that if we would seek the kingdom of heaven, God would add "all these things" unto us. Matthew 6:33.

Far from asking us to hate things, God in 1 Timothy 6:17 tells us that He "giveth us richly all things to enjoy." What He asks in this life is that we'll remember that because other people need things too, we should share ours with them (verse 18) as God does with us—and thus build up an eternal treasure for ourselves in heaven.

It is not God OR things. The God we worship offers us Himself with His things. "He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us *all things*?" Romans 8:32.

HELP ME ELOPE

My oldest sister had a big church wedding, five pairs of attendants, tuxedos, and you name it. Mother had so much to do you'd have thought she was going to crack up. Daddy had to borrow money to pay the bills. I don't want them to go through it again. I want to go quietly to a justice of the peace and get it over with without a lot of fuss and bother. But my fiancé won't hear of it. Can you show him I'm right?

You put up a pretty narrow choice: "Elaborate" or "Elope"? I'm with you in opposing complicated weddings, but isn't there anything in between?

How about a simple service in a little church with only the best man and maid of honor as attendants, a single floral piece, your favorite clergyman as the minister, and the lightest of refreshments after?

You could even have it in the garden of one of your friends—perhaps in the nicest yard in your part of town (ask the owner; he might be delighted!)—just at sundown or on a silvery evening when the moon is full. Talk about memories!

By the way, have you asked your parents if *they* want you to elope?

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE

Good Morning:

The man for whom we are searching was supposed to have been executed by the authorities. However, we have reason to believe that he is still alive. He was last reported in the vicinity of the capital of Israel. You are no doubt aware of the political tension which now exists in this country.

Although he was not a political aspirant, there was at one time a move afoot to overthrow the local government and place him in power. We have received continued reports that he is about to reappear on the scene of action. Should this happen, no government in existence would be able to resist his forces.

Your mission, should you decide to accept, is to learn more concerning his predicted return. For when it happens, your life will be affected personally by his new government.

Easy-to-understand materials have been prepared which will enable you to learn more about this man, Jesus Christ. These attractive Bible Guidelines will be mailed to you upon request. No cost or obligation of any kind.

Should you or any member of your family have questions regarding this mission, we will be glad to help. This message will not self-destruct when the page is turned. But you might forget about it. Please react now.

Fill in and mail coupon to "Signs of the Times," Dept. I.M., Mountain View, CA 94040. Your guidelines will be mailed immediately.

Check free guidelines desired

ENGLISH ☐ Junior ☐ Youth ☐ Senior

Check if Senior course is desired in other language

<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/> Hungarian	<input type="checkbox"/> Portuguese
<input type="checkbox"/> Finnish	<input type="checkbox"/> Italian	<input type="checkbox"/> Russian
<input type="checkbox"/> French	<input type="checkbox"/> Japanese	<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish
<input type="checkbox"/> German	<input type="checkbox"/> Yugoslav	<input type="checkbox"/> Swedish
<input type="checkbox"/> Greek	<input type="checkbox"/> Polish	<input type="checkbox"/> Ukrainian

Name _____
Please print

Street _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____